



Reference No. 6.18

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, MARCH QUARTER 1974

MAIN FEATURES

- Seasonally adjusted average weekly earnings per employed male unit were \$119.10 during the March Quarter 1974. This was 16.8 per cent higher than for the same period of 1973.
- Before seasonal adjustment, average weekly earnings per employed male unit were \$113.30 during the March Quarter 1974.
- New South Wales (including the Australian Capital Territory) recorded the highest individual State average earnings of \$117.50.
- Victoria was next with \$112.50, then Western Australia \$111.80, South Australia \$108.40, Queensland \$108.00, and Tasmania \$101.50.

Introduction

This publication presents estimates of average weekly earnings of civilian wage and salary earners. Earnings figures are shown for March quarter 1974 and for preceding quarters back to March quarter 1971, as well as for the financial years 1970-71 to 1972-73. Data refer to Australia and to each State. Seasonally adjusted figures are shown for Australia as a whole.

Definition of earnings

2. The earnings figures used in the calculation of the averages comprise award and over-award wages and salaries, the earnings of employees not covered by awards, overtime earnings, bonuses and allowances, commissions, directors' fees and payments made retrospectively or in advance during the quarter. Earnings of part-time as well as full-time employees, and of juniors as well as adults, are included.

Method of estimation

3. For industries other than agriculture and private domestic service, particulars of employment and wages and salaries are derived from payroll tax returns and from direct returns from government and other bodies. These returns account for approximately 90 per cent of wage and salary earners in these industries, as published monthly in the bulletin *Employment and Unemployment* (Reference No. 6.4). Estimates are made for the unrecorded balance in terms of both numbers and earnings. The level of average earnings estimated for the unrecorded sector is approximately 80 per cent of the level shown by the direct returns. For agriculture and private domestic service, employment and earnings are estimated from other sources and are included in the calculations.

4. For employees reported on ~~more~~ than one payroll, all reported wage and salary earnings are included in calculation of the averages.

Male units

5. Particulars of wages and salaries paid are not available for males and females separately from the sources used for this series; average weekly earnings have therefore been calculated in terms of *male units*, i.e. total male employees plus a proportion of female employees, the proportion being derived from the estimated ratio of female to male average earnings. Different ratios of female to male average earnings are used for individual States, based on information from the annual surveys of weekly earnings and hours, from a sample survey carried out in November 1969 and from other sources. Ratios used for the current quarter are as follows : New South Wales (including the Australian Capital Territory) 62 per cent, Victoria 62, Queensland 58, South Australia (including the Northern Territory) 56, Western Australia 55 and Tasmania 58. As the number of male units used in calculating Australian average weekly earnings is the sum of the estimates for the States, a separate ratio for Australia is not used, but the weighted average of the State ratios is approximately 60.0 per cent. Changes in these ratios are necessary from time to time to reflect, for example, the extension of equal pay provisions, or appreciable and sustained changes in the levels of male overtime earnings. However, small differences in these ratios have relatively little effect on the earnings figures; a one per cent rise in the ratio reduces average weekly earnings of \$110 by about 50 cents.

Seasonally adjusted estimates

6. Quarterly figures are affected by seasonal influences. For example, special payments, including prepayment for holiday periods, tend to raise the December quarter and to depress the March quarter averages. In addition, figures are affected by the varying number of pay-days in different quarters. Allowance for these variations, and for recurring seasonal influences, has been made in calculating the seasonally adjusted estimates for Australia shown in the table.

7. The seasonal adjustment factors were derived from a series from which the influence of major changes in awards and determinations and estimates of the effects of pay-day variations had first been removed. While the seasonally adjusted series retains the effect of the major award etc. changes, the pay-day effect is excluded. A detailed description of the methods of seasonal adjustment is given in *Seasonally Adjusted Indicators, 1974* (Reference No. 1.10), to be issued shortly.

NOTE. At the 1971 population census all trainee teachers were for the first time classified as not in the labour force. Previously those enrolled at government teachers colleges (and in some cases at other institutions also) had been included. Trainees affected by the reclassification are excluded, together with their allowances, from the calculation of average weekly earnings from September quarter 1971. The effect of their exclusion was to increase average earnings figures in all States by approximately 30 cents.

Table 1. - AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS PER EMPLOYED MALE UNIT (a) : AUSTRALIA

Quarter	Original \$	Seasonally adjusted (b) \$	Quarterly change (c) %	Annual change (d) %	Quarter	Original \$	Seasonally adjusted (b) \$	Quarterly change (c) %	Annual change (d) %
1966 -					1970 -				
Sept.	60.90	60.80	+4.1	+6.3	Sept.	80.70	80.10	+1.6	+8.5
Dec.	63.10	60.70	-0.2	+5.7	Dec.	86.10	82.00	+2.4	+9.0
1967 -					1971 -				
Mar.	59.30	61.90	+2.0	+6.7	Mar.	81.80	86.70	+5.7	+13.2
June	63.50	63.10	+1.9	+8.0	June	89.50	88.30	+1.8	+12.1
Sept.	64.20	64.40	+2.1	+5.9	Sept. (e)	90.00	90.20	(f)+1.8	(f)+12.2
Dec.	66.90	64.90	+0.8	+6.9	Dec.	96.00	91.70	+1.7	(f)+11.4
1968 -					1972 -				
Mar.	63.10	65.90	+1.5	+6.5	Mar.	89.20	94.10	+2.6	(f)+8.2
June	67.10	66.80	+1.4	+5.9	June	96.70	95.20	+1.2	(f)+7.4
Sept.	67.60	67.80	+1.5	+5.3	Sept.	96.80	98.00	+2.9	+8.6
Dec.	72.30	70.00	+3.2	+7.9	Dec.	104.10	100.10	+2.1	+9.2
1969 -					1973 -				
Mar.	68.30	71.30	+1.9	+8.2	Mar.	97.20	102.00	+1.9	+8.4
June	72.60	72.10	+1.1	+7.9	June	107.80	106.30	+4.2	+11.7
Sept.	73.90	73.80	+2.4	+8.8	Sept.	110.20	111.90	+5.3	+14.2
Dec.	78.70	75.20	+1.9	+7.4	Dec.	r120.00	115.10	+2.9	+15.0
1970 -					1974 -				
Mar.	72.50	76.60	+1.9	+7.4	Mar.	113.30	119.10	+3.5	+16.8
June	79.10	78.80	+2.9	+9.3					

(a) See explanation in paragraphs 3 to 5 on page 1. (b) Seasonally adjusted statistics for these and other series have been revised following the annual re-analysis of data. For details of the methods used see *Seasonally Adjusted Indicators*, 1974 (Reference No. 1.10) to be issued shortly. (c) Percentage change over previous quarter in seasonally adjusted series. (d) Percentage change over same quarter of previous year in seasonally adjusted series. (e) See NOTE above. (f) The change shown is calculated from figures adjusted to a comparable basis. See NOTE above. r - revised.

Table 2. - AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS PER EMPLOYED MALE UNIT (a) : STATES
(\$)

Period	N.S.W. (b)	Vic.	Qld	S.A. (c)	W.A.	Tas.	Australia
1966-67	63.50	63.90	57.10	57.60	59.20	58.40	61.70
1967-68	67.00	67.60	60.20	61.10	63.90	61.90	65.30
1968-69	72.70	72.10	64.30	65.20	68.80	65.60	70.20
1969-70	78.80	78.10	69.20	70.90	75.50	70.70	76.10
1970-71	87.70	86.10	77.70	78.20	84.80	78.40	84.50
1971-72 (d)	96.50	93.60	86.90	86.70	93.60	86.90	93.00
1972-73	105.20	102.50	96.90	94.30	99.00	94.50	101.50
1971 -							
Mar. qtr	84.70	83.40	75.70	76.20	82.70	74.40	81.80
June qtr	92.90	91.20	82.40	82.00	89.80	84.50	89.50
Sept. qtr (d)	92.70	91.30	83.10	85.00	92.90	82.10	90.00
Dec. qtr	100.10	96.60	89.30	88.80	96.30	90.00	96.00
1972 -							
Mar. qtr	92.70	88.90	84.00	83.40	91.00	83.70	89.20
June qtr	100.60	97.40	91.40	89.70	94.40	91.30	96.70
Sept. qtr	99.40	99.00	92.60	89.80	95.30	90.30	96.80
Dec. qtr	108.10	105.50	98.70	96.20	99.30	98.80	104.10
1973 -							
Mar. qtr	100.90	97.50	92.90	91.10	96.40	87.60	97.20
June qtr	112.20	107.90	103.50	100.00	104.90	100.90	107.80
Sept. qtr	112.60	112.50	104.40	105.20	108.70	101.70	110.20
Dec. qtr	r124.40	120.90	114.10	r113.00	115.00	(e)116.10	r120.00
1974 -							
Mar. qtr	117.50	112.50	108.00	108.40	111.80	101.50	113.30

(a) See explanation in paragraphs 3 to 5 on page 1. (b) Includes the Australian Capital Territory. (c) Includes the Northern Territory. (d) See NOTE above. (e) Affected by increased holiday prepayments to teachers and a retrospective State Public Service award, as well as normal seasonal influences. r - revised.

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Canberra, A.C.T. 2600

J. G. MILLER
Acting Commonwealth Statistician

NOTE. Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning Mr A. N. Gray on 63 9111 extension 2350 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics.